

StfKTA YIII. (VIII.)

The deity and *Rbhi* as before; the metre of the last verse is

Trrsktubh, of the rest *Jagati*.

I. I commemorate promptly at the holy ceremony
the might of the all-pervading «UTAVEDAS,
the showerer,
the radiant: new, pure, and graceful praise
issues (from
me), like the *Soma-jmce* (from the filter),
to AGNI

VAISW^NARA.

2. That AGNI who, as soon as born in
the highest
heaven, the protector of sacred rites,
protects the pious
acts (of men), he has made the manifold
firmament:
VAISW^NARA, the performer of good deeds,
has attained
heaven by his greatness.

3. The friend (of all), the wonderful
(AGNI), has
upheld heaven and earth: he has hid
darkness
within light: he has spread out the two
sustaining
(worlds, heaven and earth), like two
skins: VAISW-
NARA comprehends all '(creative) energy.
4. The mighty MARUTS have seized upon
him on the
lap of the waters (in the firmament), and
men have
acknowledged him as. their adorable
sovereign: MILA-
RISWAN, the messenger of the gods, has
brought AGNI
VAISWI^NARA (hither) from the distant
(sphere of the)
sun.

5. To those, AGNI, who repeat new
(praises) to
thee, the object of their worship from
age to age,
grant riches and famous (posterity): strike
down, un-
decaying sovereign, the sinner with thy
blaze like the
thunderbolt, as if he were a tree.

6. Grant, AGNI, to us who are affluent in
(offerings),
wealth that cannot be taken away, that
is exempt
from decay, and that comprehends
excellent male de-
scendants : may we obtain, AGNI VAISW!

NAIU, hun-